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Rising gas prices and the opening of more E85 stations across northwest Illinois have helped raise consumer awareness of FFVs which can run on a blend of up to 85 percent ethanol.

Adkins Energy, the E85 supplier for stations in Lena, Freeport, Loves Park, Rockford, Poplar Grove and DeKalb, Illinois has worked with area car dealers to help give consumers the facts about E85 and FFVs.

From September through the end of December 2005, Adkins and a number of area car dealerships partnered to promote FFVs. To begin the program, dealers were invited to tour the Adkins Energy plant to learn about ethanol production. They also received educational materials about E85 and flex-fuel vehicles to share with their customers.

The results are impressive: Over the four-month period, area dealers sold 89 FFVs to interested customers.

The top salespeople of each month were recognized as part of the E85 program. Mark Story from Fairway Ford in Freeport was one of the winners of the sales contest.

"The advantage of driving a flex-fuel vehicle is obvious every time you pass a gas station," Story said. "I was happy to be able to talk to my customers about how E85 benefits the community and the environment, but I think the idea of saving money every time you fill the tank was a big selling point."

Other winners included Jim Mullarkey, Rick Barkau, Ryan Lester, John Corrigan, Aaron Webster and Bob Fleischer from H. Barkau & Sons Auto Sales; Joe Shores, Greg Tremble, Rick Freese and Jerry Curran, from Bocker Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, Cadillac, GMC; Todd Hornung, Mike Dore and Dave Sooley from Fairway Ford; Gene Green from GT Auto Sales; and Jack Confer from Confer Chevrolet Sales.

E85 fuel, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, is available at a lower cost than regular gasoline. It burns cleaner than regular gasoline because its main ingredient, ethanol, is distilled from corn. It helps our local economy because the corn Adkins uses to make ethanol is grown in northwest Illinois and our nation's economy because it lessens our dependence on foreign oil.

"We had hoped to raise awareness of flex-fuel vehicles and E85 through this program," said Todd Block, Adkins Energy General Manager. "We're extremely pleased with the results, and I know that nearly 90 families in the area are happy to be boosting our local economy and saving themselves money with their FFVs."

Though the formal promotion and contest is over, the educational displays and brochures remain at the area dealerships and the dealers can help interested customers find an FFV to meet their needs.

E85 can only be used in flex fuel vehicles (FFVs). To identify if your vehicle is an FFV, look in your owner's manual or for a sticker on or near the gas cap. A lose of FFVs also is available by

clicking on the E85 logo at [www.adkinsenergy.com](http://www.adkinsenergy.com). Owners of late-model Chrysler, Ford, Dodge, Chevrolet, GMC, and Mercedes Benz vehicles may already be driving an FFV.

The following dealers participated in the FFV promotion:

H. Barkau & Sons Auto Sales: Freeport and Cedarville, Illinois  
Bocker Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, Cadillac, GMC, Inc.: Freeport, Illinois  
Confer Chevrolet Sales, Inc.: Lena, Illinois  
Fairway Ford - Lincoln - Mercury: Freeport, Illinois  
GT Auto Plaza: Pearl City, Illinois  
Sawicki Motor Sales Inc.: Freeport, Illinois

The Adkins Energy-car dealer FFV promotion was part of the achievements that earned Adkins Energy the 2005 World of Corn award from the Illinois Corn Growers Association. The award recognizes an individual or group who has made Illinois a leader in the corn industry.

For more information on E85 and ethanol, or to see if your vehicle can run on E85 fuel, contact Adkins Energy (1-888-ETHANOL) or visit [www.adkinsenergy.com](http://www.adkinsenergy.com) and click on the E85 fuel link.

Adkins Energy is a corn-to-ethanol dry mill facility located in northwest Illinois that started production in 2002. Adkins processes approximately 13 million bushels of corn annually to produce 40 million gallons of ethanol and either 120,000 tons of 10 percent moisture Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles or 335,000 tons of 65 percent moisture Wet Distillers Grains with Solubles (feed co-products). Ethanol production is extremely energy efficient, with a positive energy balance of 125 percent, compared to 85 percent for gasoline.

In a recent study based on 20 Midwest ethanol plants, Adkins Energy ranks among the top 5 in the categories of operation efficiency and financial performance. Adkins has the Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) for emissions in the ethanol industry in its state of the art ethanol facility. Adkins has an ICM ethanol production process. ICM is the premier design/engineering ethanol process firm in the industry and is involved in over two-thirds of the ethanol plants currently under construction in the United States.

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